



**Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia**

**Senate Environment, Communications, Information Technology  
and the Arts Legislation Committee**

**Additional Estimates 2001-2002 Report**

**March 2002**

© Commonwealth of Australia 2001

ISSN 1441-9904

# **ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

## **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### ***Members***

Senator Alan Eggleston, Chair (LP, WA)  
Senator Sue Mackay, Deputy Chair (ALP, TAS)  
Senator Andrew Bartlett (AD, QLD)  
Senator Paul Calvert (LP, TAS)  
Senator Kate Lundy (ALP, ACT)  
Senator Tsebin Tchen (LP, VIC)

### ***Substitute Members***

Senator Brian Greig (AD, WA) to substitute for Senator Bartlett for information technology portfolio

### ***Participating Members***

Senator the Hon Eric Abetz (LP, TAS)  
Senator Lyn Allison (AD, VIC) appointed for communications portfolio  
Senator the Hon Nick Bolkus (ALP, SA)  
Senator the Hon Ron Boswell (NPA, QLD)  
Senator Vicki Bourne (AD, NSW) appointed for communications portfolio  
Senator Kim Carr (ALP, VIC)  
Senator Grant Chapman (LP, SA)  
Senator the Hon Helen Coonan (LP, NSW)  
Senator Winston Crane (LP, WA)  
Senator Christopher Evans (ALP, WA)  
Senator the Hon John Faulkner (ALP, NSW)  
Senator Alan Ferguson (LP, SA)  
Senator Jeannie Ferris (LP, SA)  
Senator Brian Harradine (IND, TAS)  
Senator Susan Knowles (LP, WA)  
Senator Meg Lees (AD, SA)  
Senator Ross Lightfoot (LP, WA)  
Senator Jan McLucas (ALP, QLD)  
Senator Brett Mason (LP, QLD)  
Senator Julian McGauran (NPA, VIC)  
Senator Aden Ridgeway (AD, NSW) appointed for the arts portfolio  
Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja (AD, SA) appointed for information technology portfolio  
Senator John Tierney (LP, NSW)  
Senator John Watson (LP, TAS)

***Committee Secretariat***

Mr Michael McLean, Secretary  
Ms Jacquie Hawkins, Estimates Officer

***Committee Address:***

Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee  
S1.57, Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

*Tel:* 02 6277 3526

*Fax:* 02 6277 5818

*Email:* [ecita.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ecita.sen@aph.gov.au)

*Internet:* [http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/index.htm)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>REPORT TO THE SENATE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Introduction .....	1
Hearing .....	1
Questions on Notice.....	1
Portfolio Specific Issues .....	2
Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio .....	2
Cultural.....	2
Sport .....	2
Information Technology.....	3
Communications .....	3
Environment and Heritage portfolio.....	4
Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority .....	4
Environment Australia .....	4
Australian Greenhouse Office.....	5
Acknowledgements .....	5
 <b>APPENDIX 1 – PUBLIC HEARING AGENDAS .....</b>	 <b>7</b>



# **SENATE ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND THE ARTS LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

## **REPORT TO THE SENATE**

### **Introduction**

On 14 February 2002 the Senate referred the following documents to legislation committees for examination and report:

- Issues from the Advance to the Finance Minister as a final charge for the year ended 30 June 2001;
- Particulars of proposed additional expenditure for the service of the year ending on 30 June 2002 [Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2001-2002];
- Particulars of certain proposed additional expenditure for the service of the year ending on 30 June 2002 [Appropriation Bill (No. 4) 2001-2002];
- Particulars of proposed additional expenditure in relation to the parliamentary departments in respect of the year ending on 30 June 2002 [Appropriation (Parliamentary Departments) Bill (No. 2) 2001-2002];
- Statement of savings expected in annual appropriations made by Act No. 64 of 2001 (*Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2001-2002*), Act No. 65 of 2001 (*Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2001-2002*); and Act No. 66 of 2001)
- Final budget outcome 2000-2001 (*tabled 27 September 2001*).

The Committee was required to report to the Senate on 13 March 2002.

### **Hearings**

The Committee conducted public hearings on the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio on 18 February 2002 and on the Environment and Heritage portfolio on 19 February 2002. The evidence given is recorded in *Hansard* and is available on the Internet at:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/hansard/commtee/comsen.htm>

Further written responses and information provided to the Committee on notice arising from the hearings are compiled as volumes of Additional Information. These volumes are tabled in the Senate and posted on the Committee's web page at:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita\\_ctte/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/ecita_ctte/index.htm)

### **Questions on notice – date for response**

In accordance with Standing Order 26(9)(a), the Committee agreed that the date for written answers or additional information in response to questions placed on notice at the hearings be Wednesday, 27 March 2002.

It was noted that responses from the June 2001 round of hearings on the 2001-2002 Budget Estimates were not provided in a timely manner. The Committee states its expectation of a marked improvement in the future.

## **Portfolio Specific Issues**

During its examination of the 2001-2002 Additional Estimates, the Committee raised a variety of issues which are noted below.

### ***Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio***

The Committee welcomed both Senator Kemp, in his new role as Minister for the Arts and Sport, and Ms Helen Williams, appearing for the first time as departmental secretary.

Both the Minister and the Committee extended congratulations to Mr Steven Bradbury in relation to his historic overnight victory at the Winter Olympics.

### **Outcome 1 — A rich and stimulating cultural environment and a stronger, sustainable and internationally competitive Australian sports sector**

#### **Cultural**

##### **National Gallery of Australia**

- Reappointment of Dr Kennedy (pp. 4-13)
- Dr Kennedy's interview in Ireland (pp. 10-12)
- Numbers of staff acting in middle management and senior positions (p. 14)
- Details of staff who have left the Gallery (p. 14)
- Redesign of the front entrance of the Gallery (p. 16-18)
- Refurbishment of the air conditioning plant (p. 18-19)

#### **Sport**

As a result of the November 2001 Administrative Arrangement Orders, the Sports function - including two sports agencies, the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Sports Drug Agency - was transferred from the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio to this portfolio.

##### **Australian Sports Commission and Australian Sports Drug Agency**

- Effects on the AIS of the proposed Gungahlin Drive extension (pp. 33-43)
- Public liability insurance and sporting bodies (p. 44-45)
- Targeted sports growth program (p. 50-53)
- SportNet (p. 54-55)
- Tough on Drugs in Sport program funding (pp. 61-62)



## **Outcome 2 — Competitive and effective communications and information technology industries and services and improved access to Government information**

### **Information Technology**

#### **National Office for the Information Economy (NOIE)**

The Committee noted that NOIE, formerly a component of departmental Outcome 5, had become a prescribed agency with its own defined outcome. It also noted that certain government information services had been transferred from the Department of Finance and Administration to the Communications, Information Technology and the Arts portfolio and are expected to be placed within NOIE's responsibilities. Other issues raised during the hearing included:

- ICT centre of excellence (p. 67)
- NOIE's current priorities (p. 71)
- NOIE's working budget for financial year 2001-2002 (pp. 72-73)
- Security, encryption and protection of ICT infrastructure (p. 73)

#### **Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts**

- Commercial in confidence arrangements with contractors (p. 75)
- Intelligent Island funding (pp. 77-78)
- Office of Government Online and strategy to get departments online (p. 78)

### **Communications**

#### **Australian Broadcasting Authority**

- Regional TV news inquiry (p. 79)
- Interference of digital TV to pay TV, set-top boxes and VCRs (p. 80)
- Interference hotline (p. 81)
- Provision of regional radio, particularly regarding extending the news radio services to areas outside of capital cities (p. 82)

#### **Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

- Circumstances of Mr Shier's separation from the ABC (pp. 84-90)
- Details of redundancies or sackings of senior executives (pp. 86-88)
- Information concerning payouts to Mr Dunstan and Ms Jarvis (pp. 92-93)
- Separations of Mr Maloney and Ms Hutchinson (p. 94)
- Details of ongoing staff by division and classification (p. 102)
- Prime time ratings (p. 107)
- Political bias in the ABC (p. 108)

**Telstra**

- Telstra's total area service management (pp. 108-109)
- ISDN and ASDL services (p. 111)
- CSG performance and fault rectification (pp. 113-115)
- Matters relating to the death of Sam Boulding (pp. 115-119)
- Recommendations of the Besley inquiry (p. 118)
- Reduction of staff levels (p. 121)
- Telstra's foreign investments (pp. 122-125)
- Pair Gain service (pp. 125-127)

**Australia Post**

- Three modes of operation of post office outlets (pp. 128-129)
- Postal issues raised during current round of world trade negotiations (pp. 130-131)

**Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts**

- Networking the Nation program - Green Phone project (pp. 131-134)
- Implementation of HDTV (pp. 135-137)

***Environment and Heritage portfolio*****Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

- Appointment of board member (pp. 145-147)
- Crown of thorns starfish removal (p. 148, 152-155)
- Water quality and sugar cane farming (p. 149)
- Level of dioxins released from spent shale (p. 161)
- Impact of the removal of beche-de-mer (p. 166)

**Environment Australia****Natural Heritage Division and Approvals and Legislation Division**

- Funding of Natural Heritage Trust program (p. 169)
- Market research into the Natural Heritage Trust advertising (pp. 170-174)
- Success of the Bushcare program (p. 176)
- Funding of the Murray-Darling Basin program (pp. 180-181)
- National action plan on salinity and water quality (pp. 181-183)

- Spill at Beverley uranium mine in South Australia (pp. 188-189)
- National repository for nuclear waste (pp. 190-191)
- Construction licence for replacement reactor (p. 194)
- Approval process for TGS-NOPEC in the Townsville Trough (pp. 196-197)
- Removal of grey-headed flying foxes from Botanic Gardens (pp. 198-199)
- Listing of spectacled flying fox as a threatened species (pp. 199-200)
- Appointment of Chair of the Australian Heritage Commission (pp. 202-203)
- Proposed Environment and Heritage Legislation Amendment Bill (pp. 204-205)
- Rural and Regional Historic Hotels program (pp. 206-211)
- Paradise Dam and impact on lungfish (pp. 214-215)
- Commercial fishing in world heritage areas (pp. 216-217)

#### **Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO)**

- Government view of President Bush's announcement re greenhouse gas (pp. 219-222)

## **Acknowledgements**

The Committee thanks the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator the Hon Richard Alston, the Minister for the Arts and Sport, Senator the Hon Rod Kemp, and Senator the Hon Robert Hill representing the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, along with officers from both portfolio departments and agencies, for their assistance during this additional estimates process.

**Senator Alan Eggleston**  
**Chairman**



## APPENDIX 1

### PUBLIC HEARING AGENDAS

#### Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee

#### Additional Estimates 2001-2002

**Monday, 18 February 2002**

Commencing 9:00am

**Committee Room 2S3**

(Waiting Room Committee Room 2S2)

To be broadcast on Channel 11

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au>

**Lunch from 1.00–2.00pm**

**Dinner Break from 6.00–7.00pm**

#### *Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Portfolio*

##### *Cultural and Sport*

National Gallery of Australia

National Library of Australia

Department

**Outcome 1 – A rich and stimulating cultural environment and a stronger,  
sustainable and internationally competitive Australian sports sector**

Output 1.1      Support and awareness for the cultural and sport sectors

Australian Sports Commission

Australian Sports Drug Agency

##### *Information Technology*

Department

**Outcome 3 – Australians value science and technology's contribution to our  
culture and economic prosperity**

Output 3.1      Questacon –National Science and Technology Centre

**National Office for the Information Economy**

**Department**

**Outcome 2 – Competitive and effective communications and information  
technology industries and services and improved access to  
Government information**

Output 2.1      ID, BITS, Government online

**Corporate Services**

**Communications**

**Australian Broadcasting Authority**

**Australian Broadcasting Corporation**

**Australia Post**

**Telstra**

**Department**

**Outcome 2 – Competitive and effective communications and information  
technology industries and services**

Outcome 2.1      Telecommunications, Broadcasting and Intellectual Property

---

# **Environment, Communications, Information Technology and the Arts Legislation Committee**

## **Additional Estimates 2001-2002**

**Tuesday, 19 February 2002**

**Commencing 9:00am**

**Committee Room 2S3**

(Waiting Room Committee Room 2S2)

To be broadcast on Channel 11

<http://webcast.aph.gov.au>

**Lunch from 1.00–2.00pm**

**Dinner Break from 6.00–7.00pm**

## ***Environment and Heritage Portfolio***

**Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority**

**Department of the Environment and Heritage (Environment Australia)**

*Policy Coordination Division*

*Strategic Development Division*

*Approvals and Legislation Division*

*Environment Quality Division*

*Marine and Water Division*

*Australian and World Heritage Division (including Australian Heritage Commission)*

*Natural Heritage Division*

**Australian Greenhouse Office**